

# EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## When is the Emergency Watershed Program appropriate?

Do you have?

- ☐ A natural disaster?
- ☐ That has caused a sudden impairment of a watershed? And poses,
- ☐ A threat to life and property?

Then you may have a situation for the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP).

EWP assistance may be made available when a sudden watershed impairment occurs that creates an imminent threat to life or property as **determined by the State Conservationist**. The EWP program provides recovery assistance consisting of emergency measures for repair and restoration of eligible sites. This assistance **must be environmentally, economically, and socially acceptable, and technically sound**.

## What to do?

Remain calm, and remember that this may be a long recovery process over several months. The victims of the disaster may be angry or in shock. They want to be heard, so become a good listener, but do not make promises that you or NRCS cannot keep. **This program is not a response, but an effort of recovery to be done safely after immediate effects of the event have subsided.** Only then can the full extent of the damage and blockages be determined. If damages are severe, local EMA's, FEMA, SRTF, and the RED CROSS will likely be the first respondents. Be aware of their presence and let them do their work. **ALWAYS BE SAFE!**

**Determine as soon as possible where damages have occurred.** This can be done quickly by telephone calls to key landowners, visual inspections, Weather Bureau reports, internet weather maps, and conversations with other county and agency personnel. **Timeliness is critical** as the event must be reported to NHQ within five (5) working days.

Notify your acting Area EWP Coordinator of your findings through each respective Area office. Be prepared to **report the date and nature of the event; approximate number of damaged sites; people, dwellings, highways, names of streams, structures affected; any exigency situations; and an estimate of recovery cost.** This information may change several times as more sites are found. Area coordinators will then contact the NRCS State Program Manager.

## What then?

The State Program Manager will remain in contact with the Area EWP Coordinator and others to keep them abreast of funding situations. They will also work with you to determine the appropriate level of response until EWP funds are available. Remember, EWP is funded through emergency supplements and **funding is not always available**. In that case your project will be placed on a wait list. Until funding is received, charge all time to the CTA program.

## How will priorities be established once funds are received?

- 1) Serious and immediate threat to human life (exigency situations). **Report Immediately.**
- 2) Sites where there are serious but not immediate threat to human life.
- 3) Sites where buildings, utilities, or other important infrastructures components are threatened.
- 4) Other Priorities established by the Chief.

## What level of funding will be available?

Generally, all financial assistance will be set at 75% of the cost of construction. NRCS will receive 20% of the 75% for technical assistance. Sponsors have additional responsibility including, but not limited to land rights, permits, relocating utilities, and operations and maintenance.